

To: Davis, Tim[Davis.Tim@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 5:44:24 AM
Subject: Fwd: Data tonight

Language below.

Melissa Harrison
Press Secretary
EPA
Office: (202) 564-8421
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Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>
Date: August 12, 2015 at 11:08:27 PM MDT
To: "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Mylott, Richard" <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Cc: "Davis, Tim" <Davis.Tim@epa.gov>, "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>, "StClair, Christie" <StClair.Christie@epa.gov>, "Valentine, Julia" <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>, "Colaizzi, Jennifer C." <Colaizzi.Jennifer@epa.gov>, "Smith, Roxanne" <Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Smith, Paula" <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>, "Reynolds, Thomas" <Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov>, "Russo, Rebecca" <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Data tonight

Team-below is the final statement for tonight. This needs to be:

1. Posted online as an update to the Gold King Mine site
2. Congressional/elected notification
3. Press release to HQ and regions
4. Please post the original data charts I sent to George Hull.

PLEASE CONFIRM WITH ME THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFO AND ARE PREPARED TO FULLFIL YOUR DUTY.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, water quality samples were collected at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. Samples were taken prior to the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

Analysis now shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels. These results are based on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015.

EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in Colorado to assist them in their decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:48 AM
To: Harrison, Melissa; Mylott, Richard
Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas
Subject: Re: Data tonight

Messaging and data are still coming for tonight.

Melissa will be sharing them shortly.

It still will need to be posted and sent out to media.

From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:27 PM
To: Mylott, Richard
Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas
Subject: Re: Data tonight

George-below is the language. This should be an easy clear with the EOC as I believe your contacts have been in the loop. I'm just waiting on the data charts in PDF.

Interpretation of Water Metal Concentrations

EPA initiated a sampling effort on Aug. 5, 2015, to assess the impacts of the blowout at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo. Surface water and sediment samples were collected at intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. At a number of sampling locations, samples have been taken before the contaminant plume reached a sample location and can be used to characterize baseline metals concentrations, to identify the arrival of the plume and monitor the return of river concentrations to baseline conditions. Surface water samples have been analyzed for 24 metals, which include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and others. Those sampling efforts are ongoing. The data represent validated results of samples collected

from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015. Although sediment sampling has also commenced, at this time the data analysis and validation are not complete and, therefore, the results will not be presented.

The determination of lingering impacts to the river is based upon a comparison of detected metal concentrations after the plume passed a sampling location with site-specific background concentrations. Background values were defined for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake.

Any detection that exceeded background levels was compared with screening criteria for recreational water use. In addition, they were compared to Colorado's criteria for agricultural use, including both ingestion by livestock and irrigation uses.

Cement Creek and Animas River from Silverton to the Southern Colorado Boarder

Surface water quality samples were collected from nine locations in Colorado. Two of these were from Cement Creek and seven were from the Animas River. These locations were selected because an historical dataset already exists for these locations. Therefore, they will serve as good indicators of conditions before, during and after the event.

The graphs identify trends in concentrations of some of these metals that have been detected historically in both Cement Creek and the Animas River. Each graph shows the trends in those concentrations between Aug. 5 and Aug. 9, 2015. Historical concentrations are not available for the 32nd Street Bridge location. The blowout occurred late in the morning on Aug. 5, 2015. The contaminant plume moved downstream at approximately four miles per hour. The trends over time and location represent the movement of the contamination of the water in the Animas River and show the recovery of the river at those same locations.

The comparison of river metal concentrations after the plume has moved past these sampling points to pre-event conditions demonstrated that water quality returned to pre-event conditions. At this time, the sediment has not been fully analyzed nor have the data been validated.

From: Mylott, Richard

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:53 PM

To: Harrison, Melissa

Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula

Subject: RE: Data tonight

I'll send it just to be safe. If addresses get hit twice, then ok.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harrison, Melissa

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:49 PM

To: Mylott, Richard

Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula

Subject: Re: Data tonight

Rich and Paula you guys can work together to decide how you want to distribute.

Melissa Harrison

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On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:42 PM, Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok. In terms of press, will you push from there using the R8 list we sent yesterday or should we send from R8.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harrison, Melissa

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:38 PM

To: Davis, Tim

Cc: Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Mylott, Richard; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew

Subject: Re: Data tonight

+Laura, Nichole, Tom, Matt

Yes, proper notification will need to take place.

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

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On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:32 PM, Davis, Tim <Davis.Tim@epa.gov> wrote:

Good to know, Melissa - thanks!

Do we have to inform congressionals tonight, as well? Just wanted to check on that.

Thanks,

Tim

-----Original Message-----

From: Harrison, Melissa

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:31 PM

To: Hull, George

Cc: StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Davis, Tim

Subject: Re: Data tonight

+Tim

Thanks!

Looks like we will likely just push out CO data. Working on final language and data sets.

Will be in touch ASAP.

Really can't thank this team enough for all you're doing to support us!

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

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On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:28 PM, Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov> wrote:

Christy and Melissa,

Per our phone call tonight, Julia is standing by if we need to send out to media that we are releasing sampling data. If that is the plan, we will need confirmation that it has been posted before we can send out.

Also, Melissa, you said that I may need to sign off for the EOC. I'll alert Dana Tulis and Josh Woodyard who can give that approval. If I can't get them, then I'll sign off and we'll proceed forward and I'll explain it to them tomorrow. - George (cell 202-631-6957).

Sent from my iPhone